cultivation during the last two years, are as under:—

YEAR	AREA (000HA)
1994-95	83.0
1995-96	132.0

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The financial assistance for conducting research on Sugarcane in the State of Punjab was provided to the tune of Rs. 4.53 lakhs & Rs. 6.24 lakhs during 1994-95 & 1995-96, respectively by Indian council of Agricultural Research through All-India Coordinated Research Project on Sugarcane.

For increasing production and productivity of sugarcane, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System Areas (SUBACS) was launched in 1995-96. This scheme is bieng implemented in 21 States/UTs including Punjab on 75:25 percent sharing basis between Government of india and State Government. The main thrust of the scheme is on the transfer of technology to the farmers through field demonstrations, training of farmers/extension workers, supply of farm implements, seed production etc.

An amount of Rs. 124.40 lakh as Central Share was allocated to the State of Punjab during 1995-96 for the implementation of the scheme.

Review of Performance of Railways

791. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the 5th November, 1996 a Conference of Controllers of Stores, Inventory Managers of Zonal Railways and production units was held to review the mid-year performance of the Annual Plan of Railways during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the shortcomings pointed out by the Hon'ble Minister on the performance of Railways; and

(c) the details of action taken so far on the suggestions made by him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. However, its scope was restricted to only material management aspects.

(b) No shortcoming as such were pointed out. However, following areas were suggested for further improvement:—

(1) maintenance of rolling stock.

(2) procurement of materials of better quality.

(3) costing of materials being procured so as to arrive at reasonableness of rates.

(4) checking of quality & quantity of materials received in depots.

(5) fixing quality norms or standards for the materials being procured and follow Open Tender System as far as possible.

(c) The suggestions are under processing.

Proposal for Development of Chilka Lake

792. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the development of Chilka lake;

(b) whether any scheme has been prepared either by the State Government or the Central Government for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the fund earmarked under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) Chilka lake is designated as one of the wetlands of international importance under Ramsar Convention and is also covered under the National Programme for the Conservation and Management of Wetlands. An amount of Rs. 112.30 lakh hf-been provided to the Government of Oris? by the Union Ministry of Environment a Forests to the Government of Orissa for conservation in the catchment area, *r* improvement of Nalabana, database . and generating awareness union programme. The 10th Finance Comrr recommended an amount of Rs. 27 the Government of Orissa for 'Prese Chilka Lake' under Special Probler The Government of India has acce,